FOREST BUFFER AREA

821. Sri K. SUBRAMANYA GOWDA (Belthangady).—

Will the Minister for Agriculture and Forests be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of cases of old encroachment which have been rejected in Sullia, Puttur and Belthangady taluks on account of the objection by the Forest Department under new rules of the Forest which require 400 metres of land to be left as forest buffer area ;

(*b*) the action taken by the Government in respect of the several representations of individuals and M.L.As. in the matter of reducing the same to 100 metres.

Sri K. H. PATIL (Minister for Agriculture and Forests).—

(*a*) 804.

(*b*) Decision has already been taken to reduce the buffer area from 400 metres to 100 metres. Amendment to the relevant rules under scrutiny.

Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance

(i) re. : disfiguring of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Statue at Chatri Chowk, Bidar District.

Sri M. MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gurmitkal) :—I call the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the situation that has arisen due to disfiguring of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's statue at Chatri Chowk, Bidar District.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister) : I wish to make the following statement in reply to the Calling Attention.

It is reported that the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at Chatri Cross in Bidar town has been slightly damaged and its spectacles are missing. On 21st March 1973, at 21-10 hours. the Sub-Inspector of Police, Gandhiganj, recorded the statement of one Sri Ramachandra Chidri regarding this incident. A case u/s. 295 and 427 IPC. was registered in Cr. No. 34 of 73 of Gandhiganj Police Station and investigation was taken up.